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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of

Applicants : Vidler et al.
Serial No. : 10/822,386
Filed : April 12, 2004
Title : DATA CARRIER FOR HEALTH RELATED INFORMATION
Docket : STD 1222 PA/41213.596
Examiner : Jamila O. Williams
Art Unit : 3722
Conf. No. : 2855

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

EFS Web Electronic Submission
January 15, 2008

Sir:

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

This paper is being filed in response to the Office Action of October 15, 2007. Reconsideration of the present application, including pending claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 13, and 15, is respectfully requested in light of the remarks below.

The present invention relates to a unique data carrier that makes it easier to keep the prescriptions and other information of a patient confidential, and in particular to keep patient information from being retrieved by unauthorized individuals from discarded documents, records, and other materials containing identifiable patient information. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Privacy Rule created national standards for guarding individuals' medical records, and it is the policy of most health care facilities to do so, as well. Shredding or incinerating empty plastic pill vials, discarded patient ID bracelets, and used plastic bags bearing patient labels is